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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
TRSE-00 OMB-01 SSM-03 AID-05 /113 W
----------075183 111433Z /23
O P 111120Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1825
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIROITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3278

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: SAFETY OF UN MILITARY OBSERVERS IN LEBANON

REF: USUN 0833

1. DURING MEETING MARCH 10 WITH ACTING DEFENSE MINISTER YADIN, DEPUTY MINISTER ZIPPORI, AND IDF INTELLIGENCE CHIEF GENERAL GAZIT, CHARGE RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER ISRAELIS WOULD PERMIT UN RESUPPLY AND RELIEF OPERTIONS TO OPS LAB AND HIN. ZIPPORI RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT AND THAT HE AND UN REPS WOULD BE MEETING IN COMING WEEK TO DISCUSS PROBLEM.

2. WE ARE PUZZLED BY COMMENT IN PARA 5 OF REFTEL THE LIKELIHOOD OF "THE STEALING OCCURRING ANYWAY AND
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THUS TRANSFERRING THESE INCIDENTS TO ISRAELI SOIL" IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY. WE CAN ENVISAGE NO SCENARIO IN WHICH SUCH THEFTS COULD OCCUR IN ISRAEL.

3. WE WOULD HOPE THE PRESS RELEASE WHICH THE UN PLANS TO ISSUE ON MARCH 9 INCIDENT AT OP HIN DOES NOT LAY TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE WEARING OF IDF "UNIFORMS" BY

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THE PERPETRATORS. THE IDF HAS PROVIDED FATIGUES TO THE CHRISTIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, BUT WITHOUT THE IDF IMPRINT. IN ANY CASE, MILITARY UNIFORMS OR ITEMS OF CLOTHING RESEMBLING UNIFORMS ARE EASY TO ACQUIRE IN THE AREA -- SOME GROUPS ARE EVEN KNOWN TO WEAR UN BLUE BERETS WHICH THEY HAVE LIBERATED FROM OPS.

4. IN SAME CONVERSATION CHARGE ALSO ASKED YADIN AND CO. WHAT MEASURES IDF WAS TAKING TO REEL CHRISTIANS TO PRECLUDE ANOTHER MAROUN EL RAS. YADIN SAID THAT GOI IS MAKING EVERY POSSIBLE EFFORT TO EXERT CALMING INFLUENCE ON CHRISTIAN LEADERS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. HOWEVER, HE SAID, THEY ARE "LIKE A BUNCH OF CHINESE WAR LOARS" AND EACH LEADER MAKES HIS INDEPENDENT DECISIONS, ESSENTIALLY FREE FROM ANY OUTSIDE CONTROL.

5. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE PARAS THREE AND FOUR ABOVE POINT UP ONE ASPECT OF PROBLEM FACING UNMOS WHICH SHOULD NOT BE OVERLOOKED. MUCH OF WHAT IS GOING ON IS NOTHING MORE THAN CRIMINAL THEFT CARRIED OUT BY ORGANIZED BANDS OF THIEVES OPERATING IN A SITUATION WHERE NO LOCAL LAW AND ORDER EXISTS. WE DO NOT MEAN TO MINIMIZE THE THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF THE UNMOS, BUT NEITHER ARE WE PERSUADED THAT ALL SUCH ACTIVITY SHOULD BE SEEN TO HAVE POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 11 mar 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780378/aaaacodf.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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TAGS: MARR, LE, IS, UN
To: STATE
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